

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

D. DEATON, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

PATRICIA STEPHENS, et al.,

Defendants.

Case No.: 2:23-cv-00713-RDP

ORDER

This case is before the court on the Motions for Sanctions filed by (1) Crittenden Partners, P.C., Laura Montgomery Lee, Paige Yarbrough, and Deborah Gregory (Doc. # 208); (2) Renee Wilson, Compton Wilson, Erika Goldman, and Southern Maryland Dredging Co., Inc. (Doc. # 209); (3) Kim Davidson and Kim Davidson Law Office, LLC (Doc. # 210); and (4) Gary W. Lee (Doc. # 211). Interested parties **SHALL** brief the Motions in accordance with Exhibit B, attached hereto.

DONE and ORDERED this October 2, 2023.



R. DAVID PROCTOR
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

EXHIBIT B¹

Non-Summary Judgment Motion Briefing Order²

The court recognizes that a number of motions filed with the court do not require additional briefing before the court takes them under consideration. However, to the extent the parties determine that briefing is necessary on a non-summary judgment motion, or to the extent the court orders briefing on a non-summary judgment motion, the following briefing schedule and requirements for the submission of briefs are established. Briefs that do not conform to the requirements of this Order may be stricken.

A. Schedule

1. Upon the filing of any non-summary judgment motion, the movant **SHALL** either incorporate into the motion the arguments and/or authorities upon which it relies or *simultaneously* file a separate brief with the initial motion.

2. The opponent's responsive brief **SHALL** be filed **no later than ten (10) calendar days** thereafter. (NOTE: Days should be calculated without taking into account Fed. R. Civ. P. 6. However, if the due date falls on a weekend or court holiday, the due date **SHALL** be the next business day).

3. The movant's reply brief **SHALL** be filed **no later than five (5) calendar days** after the date on which the opponent's responsive brief is filed. (NOTE: Days should be calculated

¹ The designation Exhibit B carries with it a historical importance in this court. (NOTE: This is not an Exhibit A attached to the Initial Order.).

² NOTE: The following instructions do not apply to summary judgment motions unless an order of the court specifically provides otherwise. Any motion(s) for summary judgment filed in this action shall be governed by the provisions of Appendix II to the Uniform Initial Order, which can be viewed on the court's website at www.alnd.uscourts.gov/Proctor/ProctorsPage.htm.

without taking into account Fed. R. Civ. P. 6. However, if the due date falls on a weekend or court holiday, the due date **SHALL** be the next business day).

The parties **SHALL** transmit their briefs preferably by email, but regardless, in such a manner that their opponents will not suffer any undue delay in the receipt of their service copies of any briefs. It is the intent of the court that each party **SHALL** be afforded a full and fair opportunity to be heard and counsel are expected to take care that service of copies is not unreasonably delayed.³ Upon conclusion of the submission schedule, the court may take the motion under submission without further notice to the parties and materials submitted after the close of the submission schedule will not be considered in ruling on the motion without leave of court.

B. Briefs

The parties **SHALL** *electronically file* their briefs through the court's CM/ECF system and **SHALL** submit an exact courtesy copy of the brief to the Clerk's office for delivery to the court's chambers.⁴ The parties are then required to email their briefs, in Word format, to the chamber's email address at *proctor_chambers@alnd.uscourts.gov*. The materials submitted to the Clerk's office for delivery to the court's chambers, as well as those sent via email, **SHALL** contain the exact same materials and only the materials which are electronically filed through the court's CM/ECF system. There must be no differences between the electronically "filed" briefs and the "copy" provided to the court, except that the courtesy copy submitted for chambers *must be three-hole punched*. In the event of a later appeal, the court will not look favorably upon motions to

³ The opposing party should typically receive a copy of all materials on the same date that the submission is made to the court, but in no event more than one (1) business day later.

⁴ Deliveries are no longer accepted in the court's chambers unless prior arrangements have been made.

supplement the record on appeal. Materials not contained in the court's CM/ECF record are not part of the official record.

The title of a brief **SHALL** clearly reference the motion to which it relates. The text of initial and responsive briefs **SHALL** not exceed twenty-five (25) pages and reply briefs are limited to ten (10) pages.⁵ Briefs exceeding ten (10) pages in length **SHALL** have incorporated therein a table of contents that accurately reflects the organization of the brief itself. Tables of Contents **SHALL** not be included for purposes of computing the number of pages in a brief.

C. Required Certification

Counsel for either party (or any individual under the direction or control of a party), signing any document, including an affidavit, in connection, either directly or indirectly, with a motion, response to such a motion, or a reply to any such response, **SHALL** certify by his or her personal signature and as an officer of the court that he or she has affirmatively and diligently sought to submit to the court only those documents, factual allegations, and arguments that are material to the issues to be resolved in the motion, that careful consideration has been given to the contents of all submissions to ensure that the submissions do not include vague language or an overly broad citation of evidence or misstatements of the law, and that all submissions are non-frivolous in nature.

D. Oral Argument

Upon receipt of a motion, the court may schedule oral argument at a separate hearing or motion docket. Oral argument may be requested by noting the request on the style of the pleading

⁵ Briefs must be typewritten and double spaced, using at least 12-point type. The court expects that counsel will respect the page limitation established by this order. Transparent attempts on the part of counsel to circumvent page limitations by manipulating type sizes, margins, line spacing, or other similar end runs will not be tolerated.

itself. Separate requests for oral argument should not be filed. The court will schedule oral argument if the court deems it necessary, helpful, or appropriate.